

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/786,867	STENFORT, ROSS	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Linh V Nguyen	2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 02/24/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. The drawings filed on 24 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
 of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to application filed on 03/03/04. Claims 1 – 20 are pending on this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 - 20 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 1, the prior art does not teach a method comprising: defining a validity bit within a set of bits representing output data, the validity bit indicating a status of the output data; defining a validity bit value pattern associated with a particular data output frequency; assigning successive validity bit values of the validity bit value pattern to the validity bit in accordance with each cycle of a clock signal; transmitting the set of bits representing output data in accordance with each cycle of the clock signal; and processing the output data according to the validity bit.

With respect to claim 8, the prior art does not teach a method for testing circuitry having a field programmable gate array (FPGA) and an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), wherein the FPGA and ASIC have substantially similar logic; defining an FPGA validity bit pattern associated with a data output frequency; defining an ASIC validity bit pattern associated with the data output frequency; and operating the FPGA and the ASIC in accordance with their respective validity bit pattern to generate test results.

With respect to claim 16, the prior art does not teach a frequency control module, comprising: a data rate control module configured to output a validity bit signal in accordance with a clock signal to be generated by a clock circuit; a logic stage configured to receive a data signal and the validity bit signal; and a transceiver connected to receive the data signal and the validity bit signal from the logic stage, the transceiver configured to recognize a valid state of the validity bit signal, the transceiver defined to process the data signal in response to the valid state.

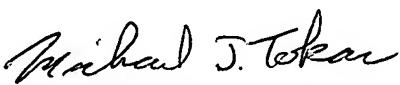
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh Van Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1810. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 – 5:00 Monday-Friday.


Michael Tokar
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Michael Tokar can be reached at (571) 272-1812. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703-872-9306) for regular communications and (703-872-9306) for After Final communications.

LVN

Art Unit 2819

11/16/04